

New distribution record for *Chelyocarpus ulei* Dammer (Arecales: Arecaceae) in Colombia

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Abstract: The known range of *Chelyocarpus ulei* is extended 430 km to the north, in Caquetá, Colombia. The new locality represents the northwestern most limit of the species' range, collected at the municipalities of Florencia, Caquetá, Colombia.

Key words: Amazon, palm, Cryosophileae, Florencia, Caquetá.

Species of the palm genus *Chelyocarpus* (Coryphoideae, Cryosophileae) are among the rarest and least known in Colombia (Galeano and Bernal 2010). The genus is close to *Itaya* but it can be distinguished by the petiole, which is not split in the sheath (Kahn 1990). *Chelyocarpus* contains four species, one of them restricted to the Pacific lowlands of Colombia while the other three occur in the western Amazon region in Colombia, Peru, Brazil and Bolivia (Henderson *et al.* 1995; Galeano and Bernal 2010). *Chelyocarpus ulei* Dammer grows in the lowland rain forests of both inundated and non-inundated areas, below 500 m and rarely to 900 m elevation in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil.

Chelyocarpus ulei was described by Dammer (1920) based on a specimen collected in Brazil (*Ule s. n.*) in 1901. Its distribution range comprises Peru, Ecuador, Brazil and Colombia (Figure 2). The most northern record of *C. ulei* so far was Araracuara, on the border between the Amazonas and Caquetá departments in Colombia (A. Duque 6779, COL). This paper presents a new record that extends its current distribution 430 km west of Araracuara. It is based on the specimen Y. Cuellar 10 (HUAZ) collected in Centro de Investigaciones Amazónicas Macagual, Florencia Caquetá, 01°29'54" N, 75°39'24" W, at 277 m above sea level (Figure 2). In secondary forest of about 30 hectares. The population of *C. ulei* comprises 160 individuals (33 adults and 127 seedlings), growing naturally into the forest. The species is categorized in Colombia as Least Concern (Galeano and Bernal 2005).

Stem solitary, 3–6 m tall, 6–8 cm in diameter, yellowish brown, smooth, orange-brown and marked with noticeable rings very close together. Leaves: 11–13, forming a hemispherical crown, petiole 1.5–2 m, blade circular, flat, 1–1.5 m in diameter, whitish beneath, blade divided almost to the



Figure 1. *Chelyocarpus ulei* Dammer. **A:** Palm habit. Leaves and petioles. **B:** Insertion of leaf segments to petiole in the base of the blade. **C:** Leaf segments whitish on the underside. **D:** Subglobose fruits about 2.5 cm in diameter. **E:** Inflorescence with numerous branches less than 15 cm long and peduncular bracts. Photo by E. Trujillo and O. Perdomo.

base into 11–12 triangular segments of 72–76 cm long with the lateral segments narrower than the central ones, each in turn composed of up to five free segments at the tip with numerous transverse veins; fibrous sheath yellowish white. Inflorescence: interfoliar, branched to 1, rarely 2 orders, tomentose; peduncle 40–53 cm long; peduncular bracts 2, ca. 30 cm long; rachis 17–46 cm long; rachillae numerous, 7–20 cm long; flowers borne singly 2.5–3 mm long, yellow or cream-colored, each subtended by an elongate, pilose, linear bract; setals 2, free, 2–2.5 mm long, petals 2, free, 2–2.5 mm l; stamens 5–8; gynoecium or 2 free carpels. Infructescence: interfoliar (1–4 per individual), pendants, with yellowish green rachis 25 cm and rachillae (30–50) up to 6 cm long, peduncle 30 cm with sericeous indumentum. Fruit: brown spherical, 2.5 cm in diameter.

Chelyocarpus ulei is distinguished by the palmate leaves white underneath and by the lack of spines. *Chelyocarpus repens* F. Kahn & K. Mejía differs in its prostrate stem, while *Itaya amicum* H.E. Moore differs in its larger size and the leaf sheath split at the base (Galeano and Bernal 2010).

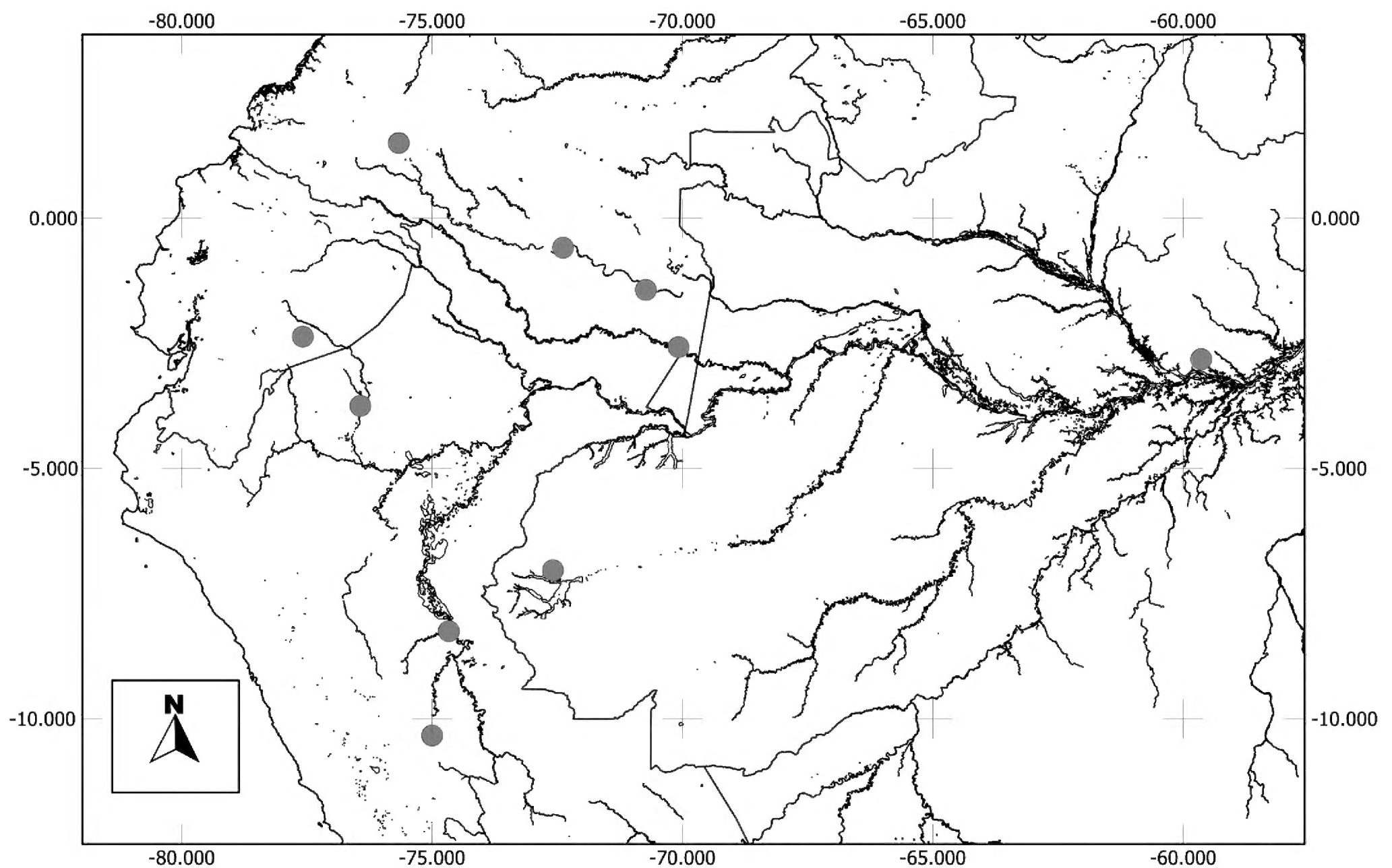


Figure 1. Geographical distribution of *Chelyocarpus ulei* (blue circle = new record; red circle = literature record) in western Amazonia.

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